



USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

# GAIN Report

Global Agriculture Information Network

Template Version 2.09

Required Report - public distribution

**Date:** 3/14/2008

**GAIN Report Number:** VE8016

## Venezuela

### Agricultural Situation

### Pasta Mixes Challenged

**2008**

**Approved by:**

Randall Hager  
American Embassy

**Prepared by:**

Clara Nunez

---

**Report Highlights:**

Local agricultural leaders have requested that the Government reverse its requirement to produce pastas containing rice and corn components, due to shortages of these "inputs."

---

Includes PSD Changes: No  
Includes Trade Matrix: No  
Trade Report  
Caracas [VE1]  
[VE]

---

**Table of Contents**

<b>Executive Summary .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>    Producers Ask the Government to Stop the Program of Pastas Made Out of Corn and Rice.....</b>	<b>3</b>

**Executive Summary**

Prost provides information, as an informal summary of press reports, on a recent request by the private agricultural sector to eliminate the requirement that pastas contain rice and corn components. This measure was originally mandated to address shortages of wheat available for pasta processing in Venezuela because of high international prices and import controls.

**Producers Ask the Government to Stop the Program of Pastas Made Out of Corn and Rice**

Agricultural producers have requested that the Government temporarily set aside a requirement that the pasta industry elaborate 70 percent of wheat pasta with corn and rice mixes.

The President of the Venezuelan Producers Association, Mr. Gustavo Moreno, has indicated that currently there is not enough rice or corn available for pasta processing, and therefore it is risky to divert these grains to elaborate other food products when they are already required for making corn flour, and important staple, and to meet table rice demand. In the case of rice, the Government has recognized that there is a fall in last year's inventories of more than 100,000 tons.

"Because of the world and domestic supply and demand outlook for corn and rice, the reality of the rice harvest being barely enough to cover current demand, and that imports of rice have already been completed to supply the market ...., we have proposed to the Government that the Resolution compelling the pasta industry to use rice and corn in the elaboration of pasta must be frozen for the moment."

Source: El Nacional newspaper, dated March 14, 2008